

**4VAC15-90-500 (New)**  
**Game: Deer: Elk hunting outside the Elk Management Zone**

**Summary:**

The proposal will modify the existing elk hunting regulation section to become applicable only to those areas outside of the Elk Management Zone as elk hunting within the Elk Management Zone will be established in a separate regulation section.

**Proposed language of the amendment:**

**4VAC15-90-~~85500~~. Elk hunting outside the Elk Management Zone.**

~~A. Closed season. There shall be a continuous closed season for elk (Cervus elaphus) hunting in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.~~

~~B.A.~~ Open season. Except as otherwise provided by [4VAC15-90-510](#), it shall be lawful to hunt elk of either sex during (i) the general firearms deer seasons (as prescribed by [4VAC15-90-10](#) and [4VAC15-90-23](#)), (ii) the special archery seasons (as prescribed by [4VAC15-90-70](#)), and (iii) the special muzzleloading seasons (as prescribed by [4VAC15-90-80](#)) with bag limits as prescribed in [4VAC15-90-90](#).

~~C.B. Validating tags and checking elk by licensee or permittee.~~ Upon killing an elk, any licensed or permitted hunter shall validate a tag, ~~on their special license for hunting deer and turkey or~~ bonus deer permit, ~~or special permit~~ and check the elk in accordance with [4VAC15-90-231](#). ~~At the time of checking~~ Upon receiving a confirmation number, the hunter must call the department ~~upon receiving a check card or confirmation number~~ to schedule an inspection of the carcass and the site of kill for the collection of biological samples ~~for disease testing~~.

~~D.C.~~ Checking elk by persons exempt from license requirements or holding a license authorization number. Upon killing an elk, any person (I) exempt from license requirement as prescribed in § [29.1-301](#) of the Code of Virginia, (ii) issued a complimentary license as prescribed in § [29.1-339](#) of the Code of Virginia, (iii) holding a permanent license issued pursuant to § [29.1-301](#) E, or (iv) holding a Virginia license authorization number issued by a telephone or electronic media agent pursuant to § [29.1-327](#) B of the Code of Virginia shall check the elk in accordance with [4VAC15-90-241](#). ~~At the time of checking~~ Upon receiving a confirmation number, the hunter must call the department ~~upon receiving a check card or confirmation number~~ to schedule an inspection of the carcass and the site of kill for the collection of biological samples ~~for disease testing~~.

**Rationale:**

With the passage of § 29.1-305.01 and the associated creation of a Special Elk Hunting License within the Elk Management Zone (EMZ), separate regulations needed to be established for elk hunting outside and within the EMZ. The proposal would clarify that elk can be harvested outside of the EMZ utilizing the special license for hunting deer and turkey or bonus deer permit and outline requirements for scheduling an inspection of the animal for the collection of biological samples. This proposal would also adjust language relating to the harvest reporting process to be consistent with other Department regulation proposals on harvest reporting requirements.